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SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

DESCRIPTION

METHOD FOR ENCODING MOVING IMAGE AND METHOD FOR DECODING MOVING IMAGE

5 Technical Field

This invention relates to a moving image encoding method for encoding a moving image signal after dividing the moving image signal composed of luminance components and chrominance components into blocks, and to a moving image decoding method for
10 decoding the encoded data.

Background Art

In the age of multimedia which integrally handles audio, video and other pixel values, existing information media, specifically,
15 newspaper, magazine, television, radio, telephone and the like through which information is conveyed to people, have recently come to be included in the scope of multimedia. Generally, multimedia refers to something that is represented by associating not only characters, but also graphics, sound, and especially images
20 and the like, together, but in order to include the aforementioned existing information media in the scope of multimedia, it becomes a prerequisite to represent such information in a digital form.

However, if the amount of information carried by each of the mentioned information media is estimated as the amount of digital
25 information, while the amount of information for 1 character in the case of text is 1 to 2 bytes, the amount of information required for sound is 64 Kbits per second (telephone quality), and 100 Mbits or over per second becomes necessary for moving images (current television receiving quality), it is not realistic for the information
30 media to handle such an enormous amount of information as it is in digital form. For example, although video phones are already in actual use via Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) which